Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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66011
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----------142323Z 006276 /64
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109495

FOLLOWING RPEAT KABUL 3283 ACTION SECSTATE 10 MAY 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3283

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, PFOR, AF
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS

REF: A) STATE 102795 B) KABUL 2770

1.MY VIEW IS THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO HAVE SECRETARY VANCE SEND A LETTER TO PRESIDENT DAOUD. WE HAVE MADE RECENT REPRESENTATIONS IN KABUL AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT OUR CONCERN ON AFGHAN OPIUM CONFIDENTIAL

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PRODUCTION AND NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. GENEVA REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR DEBEUS IS PLANNING TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE SIZE OF THIS YEAR'S OPIUM CROP TO PRESIDENT DAOUD. FINALLY, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS HAS GONE OVER THE GROUND WITH AMBASSADOR MALIKYAR (REFTEL A) WHO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONVEY THIS DEMARCHE TO DAOUD.

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2. A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL STEPS ARE IN TRAIN AS A RESULT OF CHARLES O'KEEFFE'S VISIT IN EARLY APRIL AND THAT OF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT TEAM WHICH WAS IN AFGHANISTAN FROM APRIL 17-23 (REF B). ALSO, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD TODAY (MAY 10) THAT THE TEAM'S RECOMMENDATION TO PROCEED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN "AD HOC" COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND APPROVAL OF THE IDEA TO BEGIN A SYSTEMATIC COLLECTION OF DATA ON POPPY PRODUCTION WILL BE ON THE PRESIDENT'S DESK IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND PRESIDENT DAOUD'S CONCURRENCE IS EXPECTED. THE MINISTER OF PLANNING TOLD ME ON MAY 9 THAT DAOUD HAS ONCE AGAIN ORDERED IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THAT POPPIES BE ERADICATED IN OUR HELMAND VALLEY PROJECT AREA.1'

3. PENDING OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF APPROVAL BY PRESIDENT DAOUD OF THE STEPS SUGGESTED BY THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT TEAM AND ENDORSED BY CHARLES O'KEEFFE, I SUGGEST THAT WE POSTPONE A DEMARCHE BY THE SECRETARY. WE SHOULD IMPLEMENT THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS IN REF B, PARA 8, OF HAVING THE U.S. APPROACH COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE UK, ITALY, WEST GERMANY, FRANCE AND THE USSR AND ASK THEM TO EXPRESS CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) ON THIS YEAR'S POPPY CROP. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE US PROCEED TO INSERT ANTI-POPPY LANGUAGE IN U.S. AID AGREEMENTS AND TO URGE AID DONOR GOVERNMENTS, THE WORLD BANK AND THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO INCLUDE ANTI-POPPY LANGUAGE IN THEIR AGREEMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AS RECOMMENDED IN KABUL 2401 AND 2732.
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4. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION COMMITTEE IN THE U.S. MISSION TOPANSWER STATE 101328 AND FOLLOW THROUGH ON MAINTAINING AND BROADENING OUR INFORMATION IN THIS VITAL AREA. WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER STATE 101328 BY THE JUNE 1 DEADLINE OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

5. THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY FOR AN IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE NARCOTICS SITUATION WILL BE WHEN THE UNFDAC PEOPLE FROM GENEVA COME TO KABUL IN JUNE TO SIGN THE AFGHAN PROGRAM RENEWAL. I SUGGEST THAT WE ASK GENEVA TO SEND MR. DEMETRE OUT WITH THE UNFDAC TEAM (ADDING A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WASHINGTON NARCOTICS CONTROL GROUP) TO MEET WITH THE AFGHANS AND THE UN ON UNFDAC AND ON THE COLLATERAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN KABUL 2770. DEPENDING UPON RESULTS OF THESE MEETINGS, WE MIGHT THEN CONSIDER A MID-SUMMER, HIGH LEVEL VISIT FROM WASHINGTON TO AFGHANISTAN -- PERHAPS TO FOCUS ATTENTION

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ON THE NEED TO BEGIN PREVENTIVE ACTION DURING THE OPIUM PLANTING SEASON IN SEPTEMBER -- AND I BELIEVE THAT SUCH A VISITOR SHOULD BE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OR ONE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARIES. A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR A HIGH-LEVEL DEMARCHE WILL COME IF THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH MEET AT THE UNGA IN SEPTEMBER.

6. REGARDING PARA 9, REF A, I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD OFFER AT THIS TIME TO FINANCE AN ADDICT TREATMENT FACILITY IN BADAKHSHAN. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE BRITISH ARE CONSIDERING FINANCING THIS PROJECT. SECONDLY, MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH OMAR HAS STATED THAT HE WANTS TREATMENT FACILITIES TO BE INCLUDED IN BASIC HEALTH FACILITIES WHICH ARE NOW NONEXISTENT IN BADAKHSHAN. WE WILL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT, WITHIN AFGHAN PRIORITIES, OUR AID ASSISTANCE TO THE BASIC HEALTH CENTER PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO
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BADAKHSHAN.
ELIOT.
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER.

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